



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 196

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5477

House of Representatives, March 24, 2016

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. MILLER, P. of the 36th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTER'S GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 12-170f of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
3 *1, 2016*):

4 (a) Any renter, believing himself or herself to be entitled to a grant
5 under section 12-170d for any calendar year, shall apply for such grant
6 to the assessor of the municipality in which the renter resides or to the
7 duly authorized agent of such assessor or municipality on or after
8 April first and not later than October first of each year with respect to
9 such grant for the calendar year preceding each such year, on a form
10 prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
11 Management to the assessor. A renter may apply to the secretary prior
12 to December fifteenth of the claim year for an extension of the
13 application period. The secretary may grant such extension in the case
14 of extenuating circumstance due to illness or incapacitation as

15 evidenced by a certificate signed by a physician or an advanced
16 practice registered nurse to that extent, or if the secretary determines
17 there is good cause for doing so. A renter making such application
18 shall present to such assessor or agent, in substantiation of the renter's
19 application, a copy of the renter's federal income tax return, and if not
20 required to file a federal income tax return, such other evidence of
21 qualifying income, receipts for money received, or cancelled checks, or
22 copies thereof, and any other evidence the assessor or such agent may
23 require. When the assessor or agent is satisfied that the applying renter
24 is entitled to a grant, such assessor or agent shall issue a certificate of
25 grant [, in triplicate,] in such form as the secretary may prescribe and
26 supply showing the amount of the grant due. The assessor or agent
27 shall forward the [original copy and attached] application to the
28 secretary not later than the last day of the month following the month
29 in which the renter has made application. Any municipality that
30 neglects to transmit to the secretary the [claim and supporting
31 applications] application as required by this section shall forfeit two
32 hundred fifty dollars to the state, provided the secretary may waive
33 such forfeiture in accordance with procedures and standards adopted
34 by regulation in accordance with chapter 54. A [duplicate of such]
35 certificate [with a copy of the application attached] of grant shall be
36 delivered to the renter and the assessor or agent shall keep [the third] a
37 copy of such certificate and [a copy of] the application. After the
38 secretary's review of each claim, pursuant to section 12-120b, and
39 verification of the amount of the grant the secretary shall, not later
40 than [September thirtieth] October fifteenth of each year prepare a list
41 of certificates approved for payment, and shall thereafter supplement
42 such list monthly. Such list and any supplements thereto shall be
43 approved for payment by the secretary and shall be forwarded by the
44 secretary to the Comptroller, [not later than one hundred twenty days
45 after receipt of such applications and certificates of grant from the
46 assessor or agent,] and the Comptroller shall draw an order on the
47 Treasurer, not later than fifteen days following, in favor of each person
48 on such list and on supplements to such list in the amount of such
49 person's claim and the Treasurer shall pay such amount to such

50 person, not later than fifteen days following. If the Secretary of the
51 Office of Policy and Management determines a renter was overpaid for
52 such grant, the amount of any subsequent grant paid to the renter
53 under section 12-170d after such determination shall be reduced by the
54 amount of overpayment until the overpayment has been recouped.
55 Any claimant aggrieved by the results of the secretary's review or
56 determination shall have the rights of appeal as set forth in section 12-
57 120b. Applications filed under this section shall not be open for public
58 inspection. Any person who, for the purpose of obtaining a grant
59 under section 12-170d, wilfully fails to disclose all matters related
60 thereto or with intent to defraud makes false statement shall be fined
61 not more than five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2016	12-170f(a)
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PD *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill 1) extends the date, by two weeks, by which the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) must certify the list of payments under the Elderly Renters' Tax Relief program, and 2) makes technical changes. These changes have no fiscal impact as they do not alter the amount of payments made under the program, nor do they change any of OPM's responsibilities with regard to the program.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5477*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENTER'S GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill extends the payment period for the rental rebate program for the elderly and people with total and permanent disabilities. It does so by (1) delaying, from September 30 to October 15, the date by which the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) secretary must prepare a list of approved program applications and forward them to the comptroller for payment and (2) eliminating the requirement that OPM approve rental rebate program payments within 120 days of receiving applications. By law, (1) renters may apply for the program from April 1 through October 1 of each year and (2) the comptroller must draw an order on the treasurer no later than 15 days after receiving the list of approved payments from OPM.

The bill also eliminates references to duplicate and triplicate copies of the rental rebate certificates and applications assessors submit to OPM. Under current practice, assessors electronically submit these documents to OPM.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

COMMITTEE ACTION

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/14/2016)